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Death **Notices**

Minjarez

Mario Minjarez, age 43, of Bronte, Texas, passed away on Sunday, December 31, 2023, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

He is survived by his wife of thirty years, Elisha Minjarez; son, Tristin Minjarez; daughter, Skyleigh Minjarez; daughter, Minjarez and Mia her significant other, Riley McIntire; Teegan son, Minjarez; mother, Elvia father, Minjarez; Daniel Casares; sisters, Cassandra Sutton and husband James, Marisa Sanchez and significant Jimenez; Amanda other grandchildren, Maverick Minjarez and Miles Minjarez; and the mother of his grandchildren, Hanna Whisenhunt. Mario also leaves behind numerous other loving family members and friends.

Friends are invited to pay their respects from 10 am to 8 pm on Friday, January 5, 2024, at Shaffer Funeral Home in Bronte. The family will be available from 5 pm to 8 pm. Funeral services will be held the following day at 10 am, Saturday, January 6, 2024, at Bronte Baptist Church, with Pastor Russ Frasier officiating. Burial and committal will immediately follow at Fairview Cemetery in Bronte.

Corley

Glenda Elu Corley, aged 87, of Bronte, Texas, passed away peacefully Saturday, on December 23, 2023.

She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of fifty-six

Report shows farming and ranching is still a family business

A U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) report released late last year shows that farming and ranching remains a family business in the U.S.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and Economic Research Service (ERS) issued the 2023 Farms and Ranches at a Glance Report.

"The America's Farms and Ranches at a Glance Report is from ERS and NASS, and it describes the characteristics of U.S. farms and ranches. They use data from the Agricultural Resource Management Survey, which is an annual survey of about 19,000 farms," Betty Resnick, American Farm Bureau Federation economist, said.

The most significant finding in the report is that the majority of all U.S. farms are family owned.

"One of the biggest findings is that farming continues to be a family business," Resnick said. "Ninety-seven percent of all U.S. farms are family-owned, and family farms account for 90% of all farm production by value. In addition, 88% of all farms are classified as small family farms."

USDA and NASS measure farm size by gross cash farm income (GCFI).

Farms with GCFI less than \$350,000 are classified as small family farms. Midsize family farms are farms with a GCFI \$350,000 between and \$999,999. Large-scale family farms are farms with GCFI of \$1 million or more.

The report shows small farms operate 46% of U.S. agricultural land in 2022.



Conservation! Erin Oleksiuk from the Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District visited the Bronte Elementary Kindergarten class on December 6, 2023. She taught the students the importance of soil. They students also created a painting of some pretty cute worms.

accounted for 52% of the total value of production and 25% of agricultural land in 2022.

Midsize family farms accounted for 21% of agricultural land and 19% of the total value of production.

Resnick noted the report underscores the financial conditions for U.S. farms.

"It puts high-risk farms as those operating at under a 10% profit margin, and low-risk farms operate with over 25% profit margin," Resnick said. "It's important to note that every category of farms has at least a quarter of farms classified in that category as high risk, which is why the farm safety net provided by the farm bill is so critical to keeping our country's farms in business during volatile times. In addition, the survey does classify farms into small farms, mid-size, and large, and classifies them as both family-owned and nonfamily-owned."

Dreaming Big

By Laura Jenkins "What the heck are you doing?"

The sharp sound of his girlfriend's voice jolted TJ Phillips awake. But the bigger shock came when he opened his eyes.

"I had my knee on her neck," says Phillips, shaking his head. "And I was going through the motions of putting flex cuffs on her. She laughed it off after I explained that I'd been

duty again. But I wasn't laughing. I knew I needed help."

Phillips, an Army sergeant who served 1991-99 and was honorably discharged, says he made an appointment with Veterans Affairs to address his post-traumatic stress disorder. But he felt like he was too young to be on all the medications they prescribed.

Instead, as many do, he turned to alcohol. And he eventually decided to live in his truck so he could save money. Ten years and five DWIs later, he was in the Montgomery County jail, awaiting a trial that was certain to yield an extended prison sentence, when he got the news that his arresting officer had suddenly died. He was free to go.

"And that's when Miss Barbara took me in," he says after an emotional pause. "Now I'm safe. I'm sober. And everything I need to get healthy again is right here."

Barbara Lange gave Phillips, 54, the key to a tiny home at the Langetree Retreat and Eco

Area Churches Invite You to Worship **Bronte Bronte Church of Christ**

PO Box 346 118 S. Jefferson • Bronte Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm **Central Baptist Church** 324 S. Franklin • Bronte (325) 473-4811 Dale Patterson, Pastor Sun. 10 am Sunday School 11 am & 5 pm Worship First Baptist Church 424 S. Washington • Bronte (325) 473-2331 firstbronte@gmail.com Pastor George Cooper Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Worship Wednesday 6 pm² - 8 pm Children and Youth **Bronte Methodist Church** Corner of Washington & Holmes Bronte • (325) 650-4836 Pastor Keith Fletcher 10:00 am Sunday School Sun. 11:00 am Worship St. James Catholic Church 215 N. Washington, Bronte (325) 365-2687 Rev. Timothy Hayter, Pastor Sunday Bilingual Mass 8 am 4C Cowboy Church Drawer R • Bronte • (325) 895-4080 Robert Lemmond, Pastor Sunday, 10:30 am - Texas Theater Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm -4C Feedlot Youth Building Coke County Pecan Baptist PO Box 542 •12 miles West of Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy (325) 453-2065, Bill Hood, Pastor www.pecanbaptistchurchrl.com Sun. 10 am, Sunday School 11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Robert Lee Bible Baptist Church PO Box 938 • 9th & Austin Sunday 10 am Sunday School, 11 am and 5 pm Worship, Wed 5 pm Bible Study **Emmanuel Pentecostal** PO Box 794 • 1004 Hillcrest Pastor Brantly Robertson (972) 841-2009 Sundays 10 am, Wednesdays 7 pm First Methodist Church PO Box 144 •9th & Chadbourne Pastor Gary Karschner Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417 Sun. 11 am Worship, Iglesia Bautista Betel 101 Houston • Robert Lee Sun. 9:45 am • Sunday School 11 am Service • Bible Študy Wed. 6 pm Southside Church of Christ PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston Robert Lee (325) 453-2176 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School 11 am Worship Wed. 6 pm, Worship Northside Church of Christ PO Box 508 9th & Chadbourne • Robert Lee (325) 453-2685, (325) 763-2118 or (325) 473-1053 Services: Sun. 10 am **Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic** Church 601 W. 10th, Robert Lee (325) 365-2687 Rev. Timothy Hayter, Pastor Saturday Vigil Mass 6 pm **Robert Lee Baptist Church** PO Box 493 •22 W. 11th (325) 453-2724 Chris Walls, Pastor Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School 11 am Worship Wed. 6:30 pm, Prayer Meeting Victory Assembly of God (325) 453-2208, PO Box 638 202 E. 6th Street, Robert Lee Rev. Rocky Youngblood, Pastor Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study

years, Jack Corley; sons, Jason Corley, Justin Corley and wife Lisa McMahon; stepdaughter, Kristi Clerkin; grandchildren, Burt Corley, Jackson Corley, and William Bell.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held 10:30 am, Saturday, January 13, 2024, at the Church of Christ in Bronte.

Email: observerenterprise

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Have retirement plan questions? Call to schedule a one-on-one.

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